

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the above-identified application by entering the amended claims as set forth below in marked-up form. In accordance with the revised amendment format now permitted, a clean copy of the claims has been omitted. Please also cancel claims 6, 7 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup device, characterized in that a refractive index distribution lens having a refractive index distribution which is ~~substantially~~ inversely proportional to the square of the distance from the optical axis in a cross-section vertical to the optical axis is provided as an imaging lens in the neighborhood of an imaging face of an image pickup element.

2. (Original) The image pickup device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said refractive index distribution lens is adhesively attached to said imaging face of said image pickup element by adhesive agent.

3. (Original) The image pickup device as claimed in claim 1, wherein an optical thin film for reflecting infrared rays is provided on the light incident face of said refractive index distribution lens.

4. (Original) The image pickup device as claimed in claim 1, wherein infrared-ray absorption means for absorbing infrared rays is provided at the light incident face side of said refractive index distribution lens.

5. (Original) The image pickup device as claimed in

claim 1, wherein curvature is provided to one or both of the surfaces of said refractive index distribution lens.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The image pickup device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said lens has a cylindrical shape having a light incident face at one end along said optical axis and said imaging face at said opposite end.

10. (Previously Presented) The image pickup device as claimed in claim 9, wherein curvature is provided to one or both end surfaces of said refractive index distribution lens.